

Crab Task Force Meeting
UNO Advanced Technology Center
2021 Lakeshore Dr., STE 210
New Orleans, LA 70122

Meeting called to order at: 1:05pm

Allison called roll:

Voting Members Present:

Eric Blanchard
Chalin Delaune
LaQuita Meek
Trudy Luke
Pete Geric
James Bergeron
Paul Alfonso
Warren Delacroix
Kim Alfonso
Eddie Chagnard

Voting Members Absent:

Rodney Parfait

Non-Voting Members Present:

Julie Anderson
Mark Schexnayder
Jack Isaacs
Steve McManus
Melissa Daigle

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Alan Matherne

Kim Alfonso made a motion to accept November 17 meeting minutes, 2nd by Eric Blanchard. Motion carries.

Kim Alfonso made a motion to accept the January 12, 2016 meeting agenda, 2nd by Eric Blanchard. Motion Carries.

Rene Lebreton presented the TF with the financial report: Remaining Fund Balance- \$155,370, Budget Balance- \$35,590, Expenditures- \$3,124

Motion to accept the financial report by Kim Alfonso, 2nd by Eric Blanchard. Motion carries.

Legislative Recommendations:

Cole Garrett provided the TF with a summary of upcoming proposed legislation

Increase crab trap gear license fees and enhance restrictions to obtain a crab trap gear license. This would include several components

1. Increase cost of gear license from \$50 to \$100 for residents of those, \$10 go to the Crab Promotion Fund, \$10 to the Derelict Crab Trap Fund, \$30 to the conservation fund and \$50 to enforcement, regulation of the industry
2. Increase the fee of non-resident gear licenses from \$200 to \$400. The allocations \$40 to the Crab Promotion Fund, \$40 to the Derelict Crab Trap Fund, \$120 to the Conservation Fund, and \$200 for the enforcement and regulation of the industry
3. Continue the partial moratorium on issuing crab trap gear licenses but further restrict the grandfather clause and apprenticeship requirements so that only individuals capable of obtaining crab trap gear licenses would be:
 - Individuals who held a crab trap gear license for 2 of the 4 years between 2011 and 2014 and can prove 75% of their earned income was derived from commercial fishing as reported in Schedule C of their federal income tax return or
 - Individuals who have held a crab trap gear license and can prove at least 60 trips with crab landings via the LDWF Trip Ticket Program per year for 2 of the 4 years between 2011 and 2014
 - Individuals who have successfully completed the 2-year apprenticeship program to be developed by LDWF that includes elements from existing apprentice fisherman license with the exception that an entry could previously have held a commercial fisherman's license. The basic elements of that program are as follows: Would have to have 2 of the 4 years participating in the apprenticeship program, must have more than 50% earned income from the capture and sale of seafood species during those 2 years and you could not have been convicted of a class 3 or greater game violation
 - Individuals who have already completed the LA Fisheries Forward Program as it exists now prior to November 5.

Jeff Marx discussed the suspension of the LFF program- the DE that suspended entry into the LFF Program is set to expire in March 2016, and in order to continue the suspension another DE would need to come before the Commission.

The suspension would be good for another 120 days or until a more stringent program is put in place

Kim Alfonso made a motion to renew the suspension of the LFF Program, 2nd by Paul Alfonso. Eric Blanchard voted not in favor. Motion passes.

Crab Trap cleanup- February 12- 21st,

Zack Darnell from Nicholls State University discussed the Blue Crab Tagging Project; looking for volunteers to let them tag crabs aboard a boat. Would like to start tagging in March in Pontchartrain and Terrebonne Basins.

Zachary.darnell@nicholls.edu 985-448-4709.

The TF recommended beginning this study in the spring

New Officer Elections:

Kim Alfonso nominated Pete Gerica for chairman, 2nd by Chalin Delaune. Motion carries.

Pete Gerica nominated Chalin Delaune for vice-chairman, 2nd by Kim Alfonso. Motion carries.

Kim Alfonso made a motion to add out-of-state shipping licenses to the agenda, 2nd by Paul Alfonso. Motion carries.

Warren Delacroix made a motion to not recommend a moratorium on out-of-state shipping licenses, 2nd by Chalin Delaune. Motion passes with an 8-to-1 vote, 1 abstain

Public Comment:

Mike Robin spoke to the Task Force about the moratorium on crab licenses

Julie Falgout reminded the TF of the LFF Summit coming up on March 1 from 8:30-4 at the Pontchartrain Center; lunch is free if you pre-register

Next Crab Task Force meeting was set for Tuesday, April 5, 2016 for 1pm in New Orleans

Motion to adjourn by Kim Alfonso, 2nd by Eddie Chagnard. Motion adopted.